

# The Oklahoma Miner

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## FUTURE DEMOCRACY.

It has been conceded by every civilized nation that the citizen is the unit of civilization. The Constitution of the United States guarantees to him the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is my purpose to investigate this proposition and see if these are facts and also see if the citizen is really enjoying these privileges, and exercising his right in the promulgation of our Government. In the first place the citizen should say who shall be our officers, in the second place who shall make our laws and in the third place what kind of laws we should have to obey. The Initiative and Referendum is a law of the people. I agree with you that the Initiative and Referendum has been abused to a great extent. Some people are willing to work a good horse to death. With the Recall in our Constitution it would have been one of the most perfect documents ever written by any law-making body. These laws were not conceived and brought forth in the hands of Socialism, they were not fostered by Anarchy, neither were they conceived and brought forth in the hands of greed and wealth. They were conceived and brought forth at the work bench, behind the plow or down in the mines where the honest toiler had been working to provide for the necessities of life. These laws came as a necessity. These laws were fostered in the hearts of honest men, rocked in the cradle of honesty, fed on the milk of "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none". How unlike some of our ancient laws, "That might makes right". I am proud to say today that wherever the people hold the power of government in their hands, equity and justice become enthroned. But whenever the corporations and trusts hold the power of government in their hands, greed and corruption become enthroned and justice will have to take a back ground. Look today at the nations of the earth. What means this terrible war we read about? They are a-rousing, as it were from their long sleep, Christianity has crept into their ranks and given them liberty and education, darkness has been turned to light, and the great masses of people are beginning to realize that they have a power that should be recognized. The King who had for years been squandering the money that belonged to the honest citizens, kept it a secret from them as long as they were kept in ignorance. But just as soon as the people became enlightened, they arose and took the throne from the king, and in his rage he threw the crown at the feet of a dancing maiden and the monarchy was transformed into a republic in a single day. An idea or thought that is rocked in the cradle of ignorance always puts greed and corruption on the throne. I ask you people who have lived here in Oklahoma before you had a single law passed that was a guarantee to your rights, I ask in all honesty and candor, did you not wish for someone to come as a "Lion from the North" and whip back the powers of darkness and get statehood for a Common people who had looked to the Republican party for years, expected, prayed and nay cried for the time to come when they could go to the polls and vote for the man of the people to come and lead them forth to throw off the "Yoke of Bondage" that had held them down so long, while carpet baggers, office holders and crooks had been flirting with the dancing maidens and squandering the money that belonged to the honest citizens. The time is here when the honest citizen can go to the polls and as a mighty falinx and say who shall go to Congress, to the Senate and hold the various offices of our own great State of Oklahoma. I trust that you will realize that every citizen has a vote, it is counted as a unit and is put on record to be read by the generations yet unborn. You can do or you can undo, you can speak and the servants will bow, you can legislate and the laws you make shall be supreme. How dare an officer violate the trust you have given him? Under the Recall you can put him out just the same as you would one of your farm hands. I ask you who gave you the Initiative and Referendum? Was it the Republican party that had been flirting with you for years and feeding you on broken promises? Was it the carpet baggers that had been here for years and keeping you under their gag rule? Was it the moneyed powers that had become fat at the hands of the government they had controlled? You will say "NO" from the bottom of your heart, and you will agree with me that it was the

party that had never broken a single promise. It was a party of the people, by the people and for the people. Who is fighting the administration in Oklahoma today? Is it the honest toilers? Is it the rank and file of our citizenship? No. It is the corporations and trusts, that have tried to buck and gag the administration and compell the old regime of Territorial days. They have come up to the bar of justice and received justice at the hands of an administration that was elected by honest voters. Do you not remember the times in territorial days when the big fat judges would sit on their bench, which have been sacred to them, and use language that you would not use in the presence of your plow horse? Do you not remember in Old Oklahoma under territorial government when your own dear children, who were as dear to you as the apple of your eye, were compelled to sit in the same room with kinky headed negroes, at school? Do you not remember when your wife was compelled to stand up on the train or go in the smoker, and let a negro sit in the palace car and enjoy all the privileges that should have been given him in a separate car?

Just mention these facts and you will say with one voice, "Thank God for the present administration, with all their faults I love them still." I am resolved, under God, to help make the rough places smooth, and the laws of the land shall be supreme. Some people think that they should change our party and thereby get a reformation that would help the laboring people. By changing your party here in Oklahoma you will go back 10 years, the party that is trying to get your support is just flirting with you, their promises are easily broken. If you will listen to that siren song they sing to you, "More business and less politics," they will lull you to sleep and carry you back to the times of territorial days where your hands will be tied, your feet will be bound and the Initiative and Referendum will be ammended to death until there will be no virtue in it. The only solution to the problem, in my judgement, is for all laboring people to get together and see that the government is run in the interest of the whole people, and to accomplish this it is unnecessary to organize a new party. What can we hope to gain by leaving the Democrat party, that its principles have always stood for equal rights to all? In the meantime I do claim that some Democrat officials have in many instances departed from the principles of true Democracy and have placed the party of the people in a very unfavorable light. If I, as chief mine inspector of this state, elected on the Democratic ticket, fail to perform my duties as provided by law, and betray the trust that is reposed in me, should the Secretary of State or State Auditor, or any other State official who faithfully performed his duties, be condemned for my actions? My answer to this question is, "No." But instead, I should be singled out and meet with the severe condemnation of an outraged public. No man should leave his party, because a rascal gets into it, but instead, he should stay in the party and help to rid the party of these rascals and crooks and thus make the party just what Jefferson and Jackson intended it to be. As for myself, there is no rascal or crook big enough to creep into the Democratic party and drive me out. I intend to stay in the party and help to keep such men from getting elected to office. If you have a hypocrite in your church, are you going to leave the church and turn it over to him? No, you will stay in your church and help to get the hypocrite out. The same rule will apply to political parties. Some people never decide the Democratic party is corrupt until they have been defeated for office at the hands of the Democratic party. No doubt, had they been elected to office, they would be out today defending the principles of Democracy.

I am proud of the record of the Democratic party. They have always given to the honest toilers his wishes. When the Federation of labor came to the Legislature of Oklahoma and empled that body to put certain laws on the statutes, did the legislature turn a deaf ear to them? When the Farmers' Union asked for laws that was a protection to them, did the legislature not give them just what they wanted? The Democratic party stands so close to the people, that it can feel the very heart throb and pulse beat of the great masses of working people. We stand today, on the very threshold of success, both locally and nationally. The people realize who is their true friend and will stand by the Democratic party.

The Democratic party stands ready to champion the cause of the people against the corporations. This fact was demonstrated when the Constitutional Convention put a clause in the Constitution, which is our basic law, requiring the rail-road companies to charge not more than two cents per mile. That is a law which is in the interests of the people and the Supreme Court of the State said it was constitutional; but the rail-road companies, knowing just where to appeal it, took it to a court that was a friend of the corporation, and got the court, which is a Federal court, to say that the law was un-constitutional. So you can easily see that the Democratic party has gone their limit for the masses against the classes. Almost in every case the Federal courts have decided in favor of the corporations against the people.

I want to ask one question of the laboring people. Who made it possible for these laws to be put on our statutes? Was it not the Democratic party that had

these laws passed that was a benefit to the laboring men? Did you ever know of the corporations getting a law passed that was a benefit to the laboring classes? No! No!

I want to make this suggestion—If you want to always be sure you are right in a position you take, always remember this, when the corporations say, "Yes" you say, "No," and when the corporations say, "No," you say, "Yes," and you will be safe and right. Beware of that man who says he is a friend to labor and capital. You can't serve two masters.

With the best wishes for the great masses of laboring men who have toiled here for years and helped to make Oklahoma what it is today, and to all the great citizenship that comprises one of the Grandest States under the Stars and Stripes.

## SOME WELL-BEHAVED WEALTH.

A wealthy spinster of Rochester, N. Y., bequeaths an annual income of \$2,500 to her parrot. On the same day we preceive nearer home a horse made beneficiary of a \$30,000 estate. Cats and dogs are frequently enriched nowadays, and even a monkey occasionally inherits a fortune that would stagger many a human being.

Yet how gracefully these members of the lower orders deport themselves under the burden of inheritances. The grief of the pet for the departed benefactor is sincere and is the only emotion perceptible, by contrast with a human nephew who has been impatient for the testator's demise and cannot conceal exultation. The brutes do not parade their grief, neither do they quarrel with the other heirs.

Neither the horse nor the parrot above mentioned has gone on a spree. No cat, dog or monkey unexpectedly enriched ever splurges, but conducts itself as quite to the manner born. The brutes do not become boorish. Not even the parrot will talk about its money.

By these newly riched there is no riotous living, no wasted inheritances, no snobbishness. They will not cut their former poor friends. Nor will they be miserly or ungenerous to make an evil use of money. They will not put money above self-respect, above love, above loyalty and friendship; it will in nowise warp their healthy natures or curb their simple, wholesome impulses. They will not sell their soul to Mammon.

By the principle of eternal fitness it might be argued that money was intended for the lower orders of creation. We of the higher cannot stand it half so well.—St. Louis Republic.

Gas-electric motor cars are to be put in service on the Missouri & North Arkansas Railway between Seligman and Eureka Springs. These are the last work in rapid transit. A gasoline motor furnishes the power, but it is not applied directly to the axles. The motor actuates a generator, and the electricity is used as in an ordinary trolley car. This gives much greater smoothness of operation. Such cars are economical; realize the acme of comfort and can negotiate grades impracticable for steam.

"Ethereal asphyxia" and "aerial somnopathy" are the names invented by the doctors for the fatal loss of control of aviators who drop to oblivion. The terms suggest some fatal loss of control by orators also. Is Mr. Roosevelt's oratory pathological?

After four years have passed, Uncle Joe Cannon has decided that Oklahoma is about one of the best States in the Union.

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